

Inside

Do a double take before you eat that steak
Page 2

Football - is it a press-ing matter?
Page 3

A new + / - system: does it make the grade?
Page 4

Students' take on spring break
Page 5

Scenes from the second senior art show
Page 6

Men's lacrosse hits the field
Page 8

Football coach hired

Jacqueline Wojcik
Staff Writer

John Heavner will be Dordt's new head football coach, beginning June 1, 2006. Though school will not be in session for another three months, he will be hard at work. Heavner will be rushing to visit local high schools before they close for the year in order to establish relationships with students and coaches. He already has a head start on this project: last week, during his second visit to Dordt, Heavner took time to visit both Unity and Western High Schools.

Other tasks in store for Heavner include the ordering of equipment, the setting up of training facilities and the hiring of offensive and defensive coordinators that will work well with him and his coaching philosophy.

Being a head football coach has been one of Heavner's goals. He has been involved with coaching football for the past eight years, and as he looked around for a head coaching position, he could hardly believe it when he saw that there was an opening at Dordt. Heavner, who has embraced the Reformed Christian perspective since 1999, is excited to start working at a school

that holds the same beliefs. Sue Droog, head of Dordt's Human Resources Department, says, "He believes strongly in what Dordt's about."

Dordt's selection committee chose Heavner because they were looking for a head football coach who was committed to reformed principles and the mission of Dordt and could communicate it well. They also wanted a person with at least a bachelor's degree and preferably a master's degree, as well as three or more years of coaching experience. They sought a coach who understands the importance of academics. After considering over 140 applicants, the committee believes that it has succeeded in finding the correct person for the job.

Heavner is from Oklahoma, but he has already purchased a winter coat and is ready for Iowa. He and his wife Tiffany are also looking forward to raising their two-year-old son Caleb in a small town, since Tiffany grew up in a small town. They are impressed with Sioux Center after spending time on Dordt's campus and in the surrounding area last week.

Heavner has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in education from



Mark Wikkerink

Heavner during the Dordt press conference

East Central University. Although for the first year or two, his primary focus will be on getting the football program started, Droog says that she is "sure that we will be seeing him in the classroom at some point." After participating in the faculty orientation program, Heavner will probably teach in the HPER department.

Does justice matter to you?

Nathan Nykamp
Staff Writer

From April 17 to April 22, the Samar-Earthkeeping Club will be hosting a "Justice Matters" weekend to educate and inform the student body about issues that we often don't notice. Included will be speaker and photographer Ryan Reed. Since graduating college, he has spent time photographing the people and atrocities occurring in Darfur, Sudan. He will be speaking and showing some of his photos, commenting on what is happening, and explaining why it is such an important issue.

There will also be a fast during the week. Take note that students who are on the full meal plan should sign up in the Commons, as Carrie Foods will donate money for every student who signs up. After the fast has been broken, a student-led forum on torture will take place. Presenters include Julie Ooms, Justin Van Zee, Sara Gerritsma and Nate Nykamp. There will be an opportunity for discussion afterwards.

On Friday and Saturday, "Paradise Now", and "Invisible Children" will be shown in S-101. Throughout the entire week, there will be a tent

behind the Campus Center where students can come to pray and write letters to their respective state representatives.

All the events of the weekend will be open to the entire student body and faculty. Please take advantage of all the opportunities that are available. Often we don't consider the events of the world that occur beyond our own borders. This is a chance to learn more about what is occurring and what can be done. Watch the Today for more details.

New meal plan idea meets thankful end

Matthew Kunnari
Staff Writer

In what is being dubbed "a victory for students," the meal plan alterations proposed by the administration were turned down due to the overwhelming majority of student opposition. The proposed meal plan had been desired to increase auxiliary funds that have been recently utilized due to declining enrollment.

The new plan would have required upperclassmen to purchase eighty meals per semester and \$100 in declining meal balance food package. Since Dordt only receives approximately 12% from food charges, the meal plan proposal would not have generat-

ed a substantial amount of additional revenue.

Since the student body demonstrated its active disapproval of the current meal plan proposal, Student Forum recommended that if additional changes were to be introduced to the meal plan it should be done only after serious investigation, especially in regards to specific long term benefits versus student opportunity costs.

Other recommendations included lowering the current voluntary declining meal balance program deposit to \$100, and promoting and utilizing the Koinonia Meal program

(a meal funded by Dordt for student/faculty interaction). The Adopt-An-Underclassman program should also be developed and implemented on a more regular basis.

An additional survey conducted by an independent group of students showed strong opposition to the meal plan proposal (86%). The poll showed that most students were satisfied with the quality of the food at the grill (68%), but only 43% were satisfied with the quality of food served at the Commons.

The meal plan proposal excited many students to take an active stance in policy being made here at Dordt. The first public

discussion had over two hundred attendees. However, some concern has arisen as to why students are not more involved in campus happenings during non-"hot button" issues. Are students only concerned about issues when money is involved?

Some goals that the administration has decided to undertake as a result of the current meal plan debate are to increase levels of communication between the students and the administration and to also reach a unifying concept of what community should be here at Dordt since students, staff, faculty and administration seem to have differing views.



Elbert Bakker

Why I am a Christian – despite the hurt and despair in the world

Syd Hielema
Guest Writer

I am a Christian to a great extent not despite the hurt and despair in the world but because of it. If we lived in a world that was "pretty good," I would find it much harder to be a Christian.

One of the most important tasks which life forces upon every human being is to recognize and deal with the brokenness of this world. We see it everywhere: there's intense brokenness inside me which comes to expression through my never-ending impulses to serve myself; it's inside every community, we see it in the masks people wear and the labeling that occurs; it's inside every society and nation, as evidenced by social injustice, disregard for the longterm future, the rush to military "solutions" and the inability to speak and act truthfully about many major societal issues; finally, the entire creation groans, and we hear it inside can-

cer, famine, pollution, and, well, the list goes on and on. In the face of all this brokenness, we basically have two options: minimize it and develop escapist options that mask the brokenness, or name it for what it truly is and then deal with it.

The Bible names brokenness unflinchingly: early on it declares, "the Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain" (Gen. 6: 5-6). You would almost expect the next verse to read, "So the Lord annihilated the world to ease his sorrow," but that verse never comes. Instead, God keeps on keeping on, so that many centuries later we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3: 16).

God names brokenness clearly, grieves over it with deep heart-break, and loves that world (including me) faithfully back to wholeness again with long-suffering patience. Wow, praise the Lord.

African Chicken-Peanut Soup

recipe from Justine Vandergrift

10 tbsp oil
2 cups cubed sweet potatoes (yams)
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 minced jalapeno pepper
1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
2 garlic cloves minced
2 cups cooked chicken breasts
1 cup bottled salsa
1/2 tsp ground cumin
1 can blackbeans (19 oz)
1/2 tsp ground cumin
2 litres chicken broth
1/2 cup rice
1/2 cup peanut butter

Grease large dutch oven with oil, place over medium-high until hot. Add sweet potato, onion, red bell pepper, garlic, and jalapeno pepper, sauté 5 minutes. Stir in.

Chicken and next 5 ingredients (chicken through beans) bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 10 minutes. Add peanut butter, stir in with a whisk; cook 2 minutes longer.

ENJOY!!

Out and About

Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Malaysia's first highway drive-in massage parlor opened on Monday, with the aim of reducing accidents by easing the tense muscles of stressed-out drivers. The parlors will be equipped with automatic massage chairs. The North-South Highway is the country's main highway and stretches the length of peninsular Malaysia. Hundreds of thousands of Malaysians commute along a web of highways daily, but accidents and deaths typically rise during festive occasions when millions leave Kuala Lumpur and major cities during extended holidays.

Sonia Goldstein was flattered by the nice recruiting letter asking her to consider becoming one of "the few, the proud." But at age 78, she believes that she's just a little old to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. The letter told her the Corps could use her unique language skills, but also warned that life as a Marine would test her physical and mental abilities "beyond anything you've ever known."

"There I am with my walker. I can't maneuver from here to there without it," said Goldstein, who added that the only language she speaks is English.

The world has 1.3 billion cows...

Ann Andree
Staff Editor

Those cows are longside 12 billion chickens, 1 billion pigs, and 1.8 billion sheep and goats. This is because meat consumption has gone up 500% since the 1950s. This massive increase in meat consumption has environmental and ethical implications.

Environmental

Livestock accounts for 10% of the world's green-house gas emissions. Farming livestock takes 10-30% more oil than corn or soy to power machines, make fertilizer, and transport feed and animals. Also (there is no polite way of avoiding this issue) the farts and burps of livestock are genuinely potent, each year emitting 80 million

tons of methane, a particularly bad green house gas.

Ethical

To produce 1 kilogram of beef, 10 kilograms of feed and 100 000 of water are needed. Thus, a lot of cropland that could be used to feed people is given to supporting the animal crops (on top of the increase in land used for holding the increased number of livestock). All of this land, food, and water can be better used to secure food for the poor, who are literally having their food go to the pigs.

Our Responsibility

As caretakers of God's creation, we have a responsibility to make sure that the earth and its inhabitants are being served. The unhealthy amount of meat that North Americans consume is not necessary and does not reflect good steward-

ship of the resources entrusted to us. I'm not necessarily advocating vegetarianism, but I am advocating moderate meat consumption.

There are minor changes in our lifestyle that can be made so that we are more stewardly with the gift of meat. These changes could include:

Choosing the vegetarian option at a restaurant once in awhile.

Buying meat such as chicken or fish, which does not have as great an environmental impact as beef or pork, as they do not require as much feed and water, do not use as much oil when of farming, nor do they emit as much greenhouse gases.

Simply lessen your meat consumption all together.

The consequences of individual choices within the collective global community are detrimental to creation and the people who live in it.

VOTED BEST THEATRE IN NORTHWEST IOWA!

HOLLAND PLAZA 7 THEATRE
Shows & Times Mar 31 - Apr 6
717 8th St. SE Orange City, IA
MOVIELINE 737-8866 NP = No Passes

ICE AGE 2 THE MELTDOWN
Fri 7:15, 9:25, Sat & Sun (1:30, 3:00, 5:00)
Mon-Thu 7:15, 9:25 PG NP

INSIDE MAN
Fri 6:50, 9:30, Sat & Sun (1:10, 4:00) 6:50, 9:30
Mon-Thu 6:50, 9:30 R NP Denzel Washington

She's THE MAN
Fri 7:00, 9:40, Sat & Sun (1:30, 3:50) 7:00, 9:40
Mon-Thu 7:00, 9:40 PG13 Amanda Bynes

THE SHAGGY DOG
Fri 7:25, 9:35, Sat & Sun (1:30, 4:10) 7:25, 9:35
Mon-Thu 7:25, 9:35 PG Tim Allen

FOR VENDETTA
Fri 7:45, Sat & Sun (2:00) 7:45
Mon-Thu 7:45 R Natalie Portman

failure to launch
Fri 7:30, 9:35, Sat & Sun (1:40, 4:20) 7:30, 9:35
Mon-Thu 7:30, 9:35 PG13

LARRY THE CABLE GUY: HEALTH INSPECTOR
Fri 7:05, 9:45, Sat & Sun (1:50, 4:30) 7:05, 9:45
Mon-Thu 7:05, 9:45 PG13

MainStreetTheaters.com

Now Accepting Credit Cards
Visa, MasterCard, Discover & American Express

31 March 2006

Those who have been given much

Andrea Dykshoorn
Editor

It was the most difficult task that I have ever undertaken in my entire twenty years.

One scorching Tuesday morning in Cairo, Egypt, I was working at an orphanage in the poorest part of the city when he was thrust into my arms—the tiniest infant I have ever held. Although he looked to be at least a month premature, I soon discovered that he was nearly two months old. Yet his hands were the size of my thumbnail, and his tiny body was lost in the small-est diaper that the orphanage possessed.

What haunts me to this day, though, are his eyes. In a delicate head no bigger than my fist, the infant's eyes were frighteningly large. In reality, however, I never even saw them. The malnutrition that caused the rest of his tiny body to shrivel also led to abnormal swelling in his eyes and eyelids. The harsh contrast of this child's jutting cheekbones and eyes swollen shut put a human face to the problem of starvation, something that until this point in time I had only heard about through the media.

I fed the child with an eye-dropper. And I cried.

This infant's story is not unique. At

the orphanage, I also met Abnoub, a mute five-year-old boy who weighs only twenty pounds and who is probably no longer alive. Then there's Mahmoud, whose body is permanently affixed in a distorted fetal position. There's Marina, who was dropped off at the orphanage with the simple explanation that her parents don't like girls. And Refka, Basma, Amir, Ragel... each of whom have their own heart-wrenching stories.

For a number of months now, something besides this starving infant has been haunting me: Luke 12:48, which reads, "To those who have been given much, much will be demanded." As North Americans, we often interpret this verse in light of the material blessings that we have been given. However, I believe that Jesus was referring to not only material possessions, but also to life experiences when he instructed the large crowd gathered on the hillside to utilize their gifts for the kingdom of God.

I do not know what purpose will be served by my memory of a starving child in a Cairo orphanage. But I do know that I have been blessed beyond measure, and to keep to myself the knowledge and experiences that I have received would not only be selfish, but it would also violate my calling as a Christian.

Implementing the new football program

Sara Gerritsma
Guest writer

Much discussion took place among students and faculty at the end of last academic year about whether or not Dordt should start a football program. Faculty and students asked if the large amounts of money required for football shouldn't be spent on struggling academic programs, if Dordt wanted to invite the so-called "football culture" onto campus, and if football was an instrumental part of Dordt's calling as an institution.

Apparently these questions were answered to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees. They adopted a recommendation to implement a football program in October of 2005. The discussion about whether or not Dordt will have a football program is no longer open for discussion, nor should it be. A decision has been made and must be respected.

What still should be open for discussion is the way that the college goes about implementing the new program.

On Tuesday, March 21, 2006, Dordt held a press conference in the Campus Center to announce the hiring of its new head football coach, Mr. John Heavner.

I don't know Mr. Heavner personally, nor

am I qualified to judge whether or not he is qualified to be a college football coach.

However, a few aspects of the hiring and press conference raise red flags for me. First, Mr. Heavner has never attended nor taught at a Christian institution. While I certainly don't doubt the sincerity of his faith commitment on these grounds, Dordt prides itself on being "a community where faith and life and learning are not separate—they're one." Shouldn't we then be looking for a football coach who has exemplified this same commitment to integral Christian education?

Second, a concern about football voiced at some of the public meetings last year was that it would take attention away from academics, existing sports, and that it would become the most important activity on campus. The fact that Dordt held a press conference to announce the new football coach confirms these fears. Dordt has just hired a new math professor, a nursing instructor, and a theology instructor for next year. In addition, the new position of Dean of Chapel was created last year and that opening was filled recently. A new and improved nursing program was revealed on March 13. Why is it that no one thought these announcements important enough to warrant a press conference?

Learning from the bad: Street evangelism in New York City

Jessi Rieken
Staff Writer

During spring break, I led an amazing team on PLIA to New York. Our mission for this trip was urban evangelism. There is nothing I love to do more than to share the love of Christ that I have in my heart, but evangelism on the streets of New York was a little different. On our first day, my team and I headed out to the streets in the Bronx. This day was quite a stretch for us—we were trying our best to share the love of Christ, but no one wanted to listen.

New York is a remarkable place. I met some really amazing people, but the experience is one I will never forget. Vanessa Patino and I started our day up the street from the group passing out tracts, which contained information on how to accept Jesus into your heart and have a personal relationship with Him.

I encountered for the first time what Matthew explains in Matthew 5:11. I was insulted, I was screamed at, and I was told that I had my religion all wrong. Vanessa and I encountered something I will never forget: a Jewish man yelling at us about how Jesus was blasphemy. As I tried to defend my position, the thoughts in my head became scrambled, and I couldn't find the right words. Vanessa spoke up and told the Jewish man that Jesus was not blasphemy, that He was the Messiah, and that we believed in the Trinity, but the man wanted no part of it. Instead, the Jewish man walked away cursing us and what we were doing; after he left I felt like I was two feet tall. How was I being a light to the world when I couldn't even defend what I believed to a Jewish man?

Over my experience in New York, I met a lot of Jehovah's Witnesses and Muslims that were very nice, but I didn't know how to tell them that everything they believed

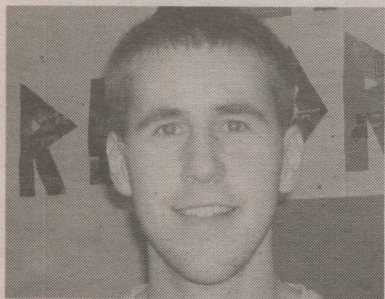
was wrong. What was God doing to me? Needless to say, I left New York feeling broken and messed up about street evangelism.

This experience stretched me and my group far from our comfort zones. I only hope that I was able to be a light in God's world and that I planted seeds in other people's hearts for Him. Don't get me wrong—some people did stop to talk to us, and I had opportunities to share my faith. I tried to shine God's grace all over my face, but I don't know if any of the people I met accepted God into their hearts.

Sometimes telling the world about Jesus involves stretching yourself out of your Dutch CRC skin and taking a stand for what you believe. My team learned this firsthand on the streets on New York. A wise person once told me that if you don't challenge your faith, it is possible that you don't take it seriously.

CAMPUS POLL:

What do you think about Dordt getting football?



Justin Van Zee



Katiegrace Youngsma



Erik Inlow



Matt Vander Ark



Julie Van Dam

I question the college's motives.

Eventually, it will cost us money

Because I believe college football teams define the events for the year. Everything else becomes (other programs, including athletic) get shorted.

It ultimately has the potential to attract more students and financially benefit Dordt

I was against it but after talking to the business professors, I changed my mind. They explained that the money being donated was donated specifically for the football team and we would not have received it otherwise.

Interviews and pictures by Bridget Smith, Staff Writer

Plus/Minus—Against

Dennis Vander Plaats
Director of Teacher Education

Would implementing a more nuanced grading system help students learn? Formal schooling conditions students from kindergarten on to work for the grade. In "Arguments for Plus/Minus Grading: A Case Study," Brassette states, "Clearly, grades are the major obstacle towards both attaining the desired degree and achieving the dream job.... It probably explains why most students are concerned about their grades rather than whether they have learned, grown, and stretched their minds in the process" (p. 36).

This weekend I read a journal from an education student commenting on the reward system used in her first grade classroom. She reacted negatively to the use of candy rewards suggesting that the joy of learning should motivate first graders to learn. Reflect on how our current system of schooling conditions students to do their best by providing rewards. Does candy given or withheld from first graders eventually become good grades given or withheld from college students? Likely we would all agree that letter grades are not the purpose, or end product, of schooling. Additionally, a letter grade cannot adequately reflect the quality of learning that has taken place. Then why would we want to place even more emphasis on letter grades by implementing a plus/minus system? Students should want to learn because they need the knowledge, skills and attitudes taught in order to be competent workers for God in His kingdom, not because of a grade they may receive.

The proposal being considered suggests that plus/minus letter grades would provide more informative and specific feedback on student learning. Would it? If students need more specific feedback it should be given in the form of written or verbal comments. A grade actually may say very little about the quality of work done in a course. The proposal also suggested that plus/minus letter grades would provide more motivation for student learning. Students who are grade conscious (or are driven by grades) may have greater motivation under a plus/minus system, but is such motivation desirable? Do we really want to encourage students who attend school for the purpose of earning grades to work even more for the grades? Students should want to learn because the knowledge is worth knowing, not because of the extrinsic reward of a letter grade. The evidence that a plus/minus system actually helps students learn is weak.

Brassette, Andrew. "Arguments for Plus/Minus Grading: A Case Study" Educational Research Quarterly. Volume 25.3. pp 29-40.

The Plus/Minus Grading Proposal

Cody Ellens
Student Forum Representative

Student forum is in the process of reviewing a proposal from the C&APC (Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee) on whether or not to adopt a plus/minus grading scale. The following two articles point to some of its strengths and weaknesses. Any feedback would be beneficial in this regard. Please relate your thoughts to any Student Forum representative or member.



Advantages of Plus/Minus Grading

Dr. Douglas De Boer
Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee

The Student Forum and the Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (a faculty committee with two student representatives) are considering a proposal from the Humanities Division to change the current course grading scheme. At present only straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, E, F) are allowed to be reported for graded courses. The proposal is to allow plus and minus modifiers to be attached to these grades so that A, A-, B+, B-, etc. course grades will be allowed. The plus and minus modifiers will count in the Grade Point Averages.

The humanities division cites these **advantages** for the proposal:
More accurate reflection of student achievement in courses. For example, if the professor uses a standard grading curve, at present a score of 79% will result in a course grade of "C" and a score of 90% will result in a course grade of "A." That results in a 2.00 grade point difference for only an 11% difference in raw score. Under the new proposal the 79% will result in a "C+" grade and the 90% will result in an "A-" grade, a difference of only 1.34 grade points which is more in line with the difference in the raw score.

More informative and specific feedback to students on the quality of their work at the end of the semester.
Greater potential student motivation. Toward the end of the semester some students find themselves firmly placed in the middle of a letter grade range so that either greater or lesser effort will not be likely to change the course grade. Some students then slack off on that course. Under the new proposal students will find their efforts, large or small, will continue to be reflected in the course grade.

Reduced stress for some students. The small difference in raw grade performance in some situations can result in a big change in the course grade, which can be nerve wracking for the students in these situations. Under the proposed system minor changes in performance will more often result in minor changes in the course grade.

Better competitive edge for graduate-school-bound students. A 4.00 GPA from a school with plus and minus course grades carries greater weight than a 4.00 GPA from a school without. This is because at a school without plus/minus grading a 4.00 GPA can be accumulated by an entirely uniform "A-" level of course work.

The Humanities Division also recognizes these **disadvantages** to the proposal

Slight lowering of over-all GPA's. Studies at universities that have made this change show that over-all GPA's decline about 0.04 to 0.08 grade points on average. The number of students graduating with 4.00 GPA's also declines.

More grade change requests. When clerical errors happen, or when students request to have grades re-evaluated, it is more likely that the correction of these grades will result in a course grade change under the new proposal.

The Student Forum is presently soliciting feedback from students on this proposal. Tentatively an open meeting for students to share ideas on this proposal is being planned—watch for the announcement. Students may also submit suggestions and responses to this proposal directly to the student forum by pointing a web browser to:

http://denis.dordt.edu/offices/student_services/student_forum

Then look for the link to "Suggestions/Feedback." A suggested subject tag is "grades."

The full three-page proposal from the Humanities Division (which includes references to many more pages of research on this topic) is also available on DENIS, see:

http://denis.dordt.edu/academics/departments/engineering/CAPC/+grading_proposal.pdf

Put your best knee forward.

The *I Love You* diamond solitaire

Your Love. It's set in stone.
I Love You 0.61/50/3A

Center Stone
JEWELERS
Grant DeHaan

4 736 North Main Avenue, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250
Phone (712) 722-1601 • Fax (712) 722-1607



TUESDAY NIGHTS!
Medium single topping pizzas
\$5.00 TO-GO
Limit 4 per order.
722-3988

31 March 2006

Crazy Spring Break Stories

Jeanetta Groenendyk and Cheryl Korthuis

The journey to Orlando, Florida consisted of 40 men's and women's track members crammed neatly into the charter bus, all either talking, listening to music, playing cards or sleeping. Some slept on the floor, while others sprawled across the aisle, and Shawna Flikkema maneuvered around all of them and across the top of the seats in an attempt to reach the front of the bus. Overall, the bus ride was chaos.

The fun didn't stop, however, when the track teams reached Florida. Staying in condos, the team entertained themselves with animal antics and pranks. Nick Groen and Jason Shumate led the men in an all-out attack of the women's condos, armed with ketchup-filled water balloons. The



Above: Shawna Flikkema protects her fellow trackster from the men.

nasty projectiles were aimed at the girls' door, and to the attackers' delight, the girls were completely annoyed. The boys also took advantage of the outdoor pool, throwing the girls in against their will. In retaliation, the girls filled every bowl, bucket and container they could find and ran armed and ready to surprise the boys. Revenge was sweet, and entertainment was never in short supply.

Kevin Franje

The "snakebite" story started when I had an accident while working at a church on PLIA. We were breaking up and flipping over large slabs of concrete when, unfortunately, some of the concrete broke off, leaving two wires poking out the end. My arm slipped forward, and the wires jabbed into the backside of my forearm. I then went to the emergency room where they flushed out the wound in order to prevent an infection and bandaged it up. After seeing my wound, the group decided it looked like a snakebite, so we decided to make up the story that a rattlesnake had bitten me while I was in Colorado. Many people bought the story, considering it a great PLIA memory. Eventually, however, I told the truth, and although many acted upset, all agreed that it was a pretty funny story.

Below: Neil Elgersma and Sarah Van Dyken at the airport.

The Problem with Physics

Cheryl Korthuis

Chris Wyenberg, Canadian Dordt student, 2006 PLIA participant, and careless driver, somehow ended up driving a vanload of peacefully slumbering PLIA students to the great state of Oklahoma instead of their intended destination of Mississippi. While discussing physics with Branden Kooiman, Wyenberg took a fateful turn westward. For the riders, arrival in the Sooner State in the early hours of the morning was a surprising but hilarious discovery, as it added two hours to a trip already delayed by multiple van breakdowns. Although he may have had a precise calculation of the velocity of the van's critical mass, serious doubts are now placed in Wyenberg's directional and multi-tasking capabilities.

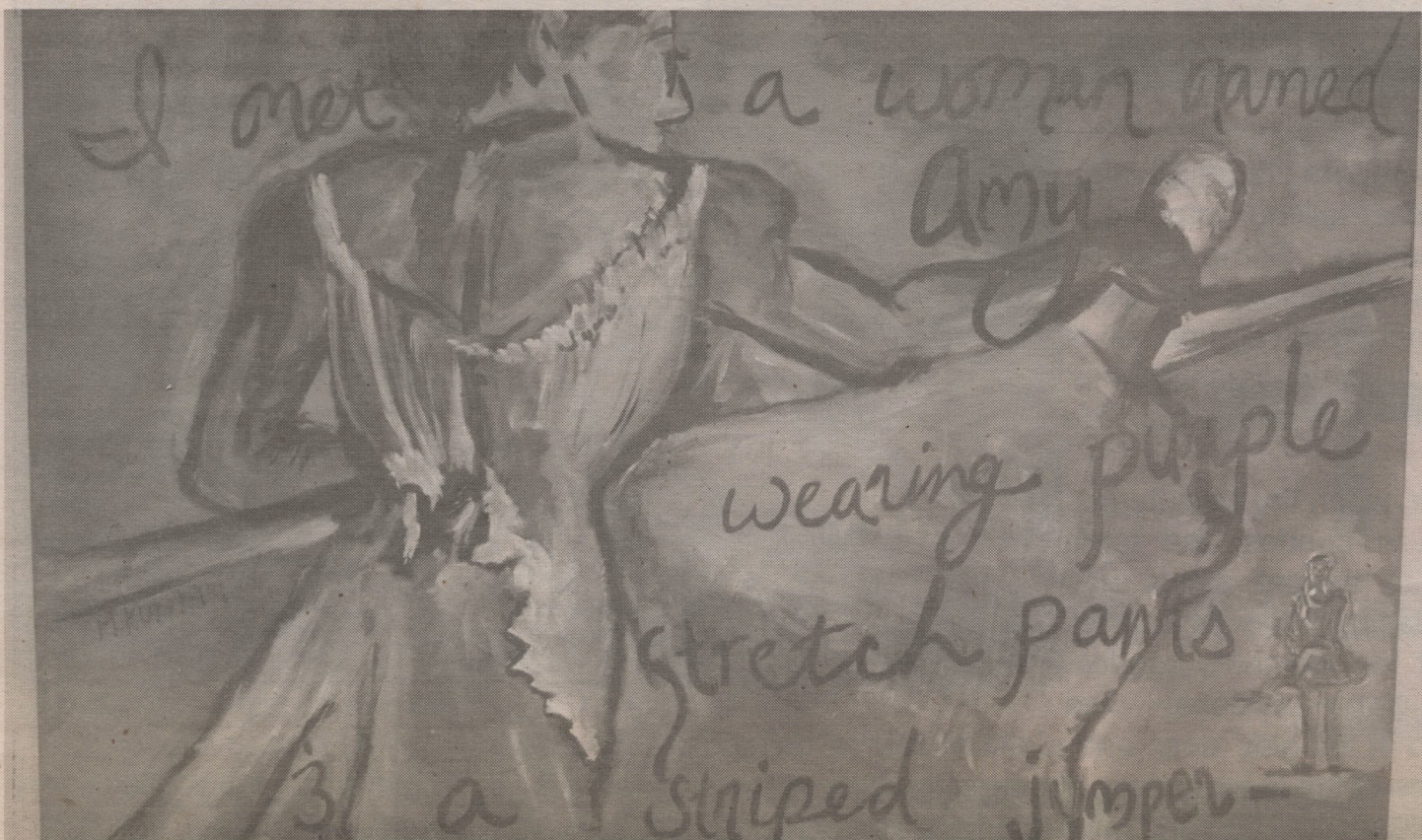
Kara Kuipery

After a wonderful ten-day tour of central California, we arrived at the airport two hours early for our 11:30 a.m. flight. Sad to leave, yet excited to see some more friends back at "home," the eight of us lined up to get our boarding passes. After approaching the counter with passports and other ID in hand, we were rudely informed that our flight was cancelled and instructed to leave the line. No explanation was given, no sympathy offered, and no vouchers for hotels or food were exchanged. We were simply left with cold rejection and the question: what are we to do now? With nothing else to do, we sternly asked for the manager, who suggested sending half of us to Chicago via United Airlines and keeping the rest in Sacramento. As a group, we voted against the proposal and demanded a flight to Omaha together. The next available flight was at 5 p.m. the next day. We then made the hour-long drive back to Ripon, where the Van Dykens graciously welcomed us back into their home. For the next 24 hours we shopped and tanned, thinking of our friends sitting in class back at Dordt. Although hard to believe, we all survived our flight-cancellation ordeal.

Sunshine Study

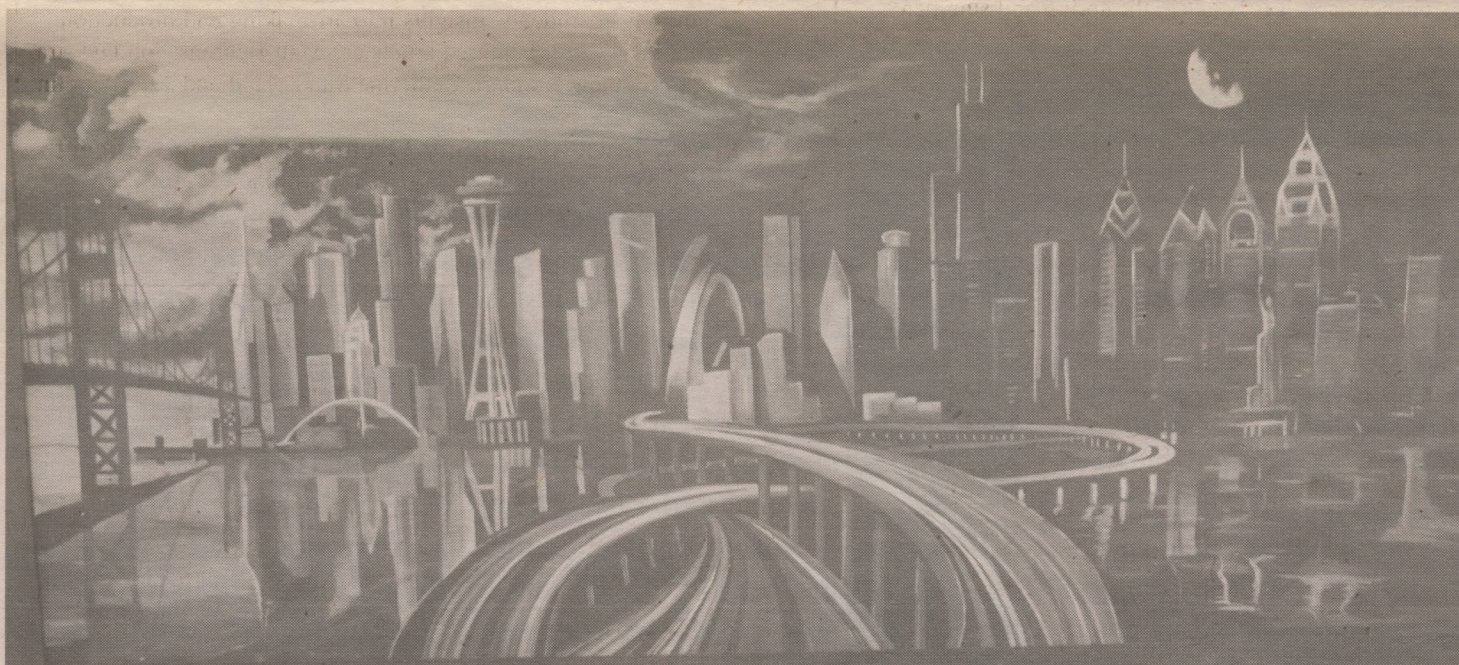


Senior art show



Freedom
Breanne Wierenga

It's running in a field
Full of blooming flowers.
It's the feeling received
Standing in Earth's showers.
It's a quaint butterfly
Flitting in the cool breeze.
It's the kingly eagle
Soaring above the trees.
It's a victory won.
The glory thereafter.
It's being with those loved
And the sound of laughter.
It's being who you are
And overcoming faults.
It's aiding your neighbor
Putting wrong to a halt.
Some possess this blessing,
But tend to disregard
That others thirst for it
In lands that are so hard.
It is worth fighting for
No matter what may be.
For more precious than gold
Is joy of being free.
Copyright © 2003
Breanne Wierenga



Top:
Matthew Kunnari. *Meeting and Memory*. Acrylic, India Ink on Canvas.

Middle left:
Jon Dykstra. *American Skyline Revisited*. Acrylic.

Middle right and bottom left:
Catherine Sunderland. *Can These Dry Bones Yet Live?* Ceramic.

Bottom right:
Sara Franken. *I (heart) NY*. Acrylic on Canvas.

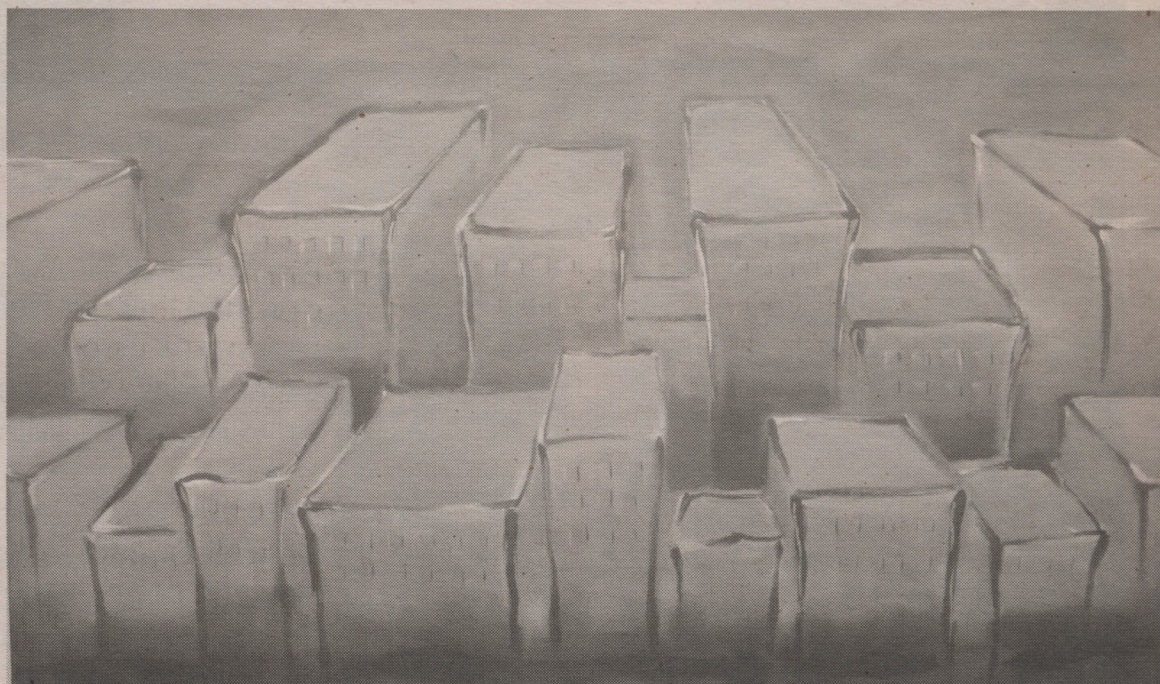


photo credit Mark Wikkerink

31 March 2006

Wheels of the Week:

It's better in the spring

Lynette Andree
Staff Writer



Napolean Dynamite inspires new kind of wheeling

February fooled us. The weather was warm and we started staying outside longer, spending more time outdoors than just walking back and forth to class every day. Then came March with its wicked weather, which forced us all back into our stuffy dorms and apartments. It's around this time of year when we all become impatient to get outside, away from our roommates, who we dearly love.

It seems as though there is a higher demand for wheels in the spring, when we start yanking out our wheeling gear.

The skateboarders pull out their skateboards, which allow them to sleep an extra 6.5 minutes because they can get across campus that much faster.

The rookie rollerbladers finally invest in elbow and kneepads and practice in the All Seasons Center parking lot. The novice rollerbladers spend as much time on the new blacktop as possible. Hopefully the sand and grit from the winter will be cleaned up soon, since the sand only gets in the way of an otherwise smooth road.

We cannot forget the many longboarders on campus. I would put money on the fact that they are itching to get off the couch and onto the Dordt sidewalks.

That leaves the cars. Spring is the season when people can finally open up their car windows so that the entire campus can hear their music. Students who are privileged enough to have subwoofers in their vehicles can view the coming of spring as an opportunity to open their trucks and show off 12-inch subs in their custom-made fiberglass boxes. This can be really exciting for the guys on campus.

Whatever wheeling activity you have planned, chances are, it is better in the spring and summer.

T G E E T T E V R O C C U S C S T
A W M B T R E V O R I F S U H U R
E E H C S R O P E T F V T T E X M
S U B A R U O E R A I O A O V E I
U I N I H G R O B M A L H L R L T
Z U T J O V E O V M T V I A O C S
U I A A E N O B N R I O A N L A U
K M D G M S U L A D E N D C E L B
I E O U O R T F K A A K I I T L I
A R K A R R N O E S S E N A C I S
A C S R A E P T S R W T W O Q D H
D E U M F E L I O T R A O O D A I
N D S E L U N M A Z D A G Y O C I
O E S D A C H R Y S L E R E O T D
H S R N A G R O M O D A Y I N T U
T O E G U E P A N H Y U N D A I A
F R D S A E C Y O R S L L O R V E

Alfa Romeo	Daihatsu	Lancia	Opel	Smart
Audi	Donkervoort	Lexus	Peugeot	Subaru
BMW	Ferrari	Lotus	Porsche	Suzuki
Cadillac	Fiat	Mazda	Renault	Toyota
Chevrolet	Ford	Mercedes	Rolls Royce	Volkswagen
Chrysler	Honda	Mini	Rover	Volvo
Citroen	Hyundai	Mitsubishi	Saab	
Corvette	Jaguar	Morgan	Seat	
Daewoo	Lamborghini	Nissan	Skoda	



Matt Wertz & Dave Barnes

with special guest Andy Davis

Christ Chapel
Northwestern College
Orange City, Iowa

Monday, April 3 @ 7:30 p.m.

Senior Art Show

The second senior exhibit opening will be Friday, March 31, from 5:30-7 p.m., with remarks by featured artists at 6 p.m. The public is invited to this reception to hear students' insights into art-making and production while viewing their work. Featured artists are Matt Behrens, Jon Dykstra, Sara Franken, Matthew Kunnari, Catherine Sunderland and Tara Warolin.

Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert
Tuesday, April 11, at 7:30 in the BJ Haan Auditorium

Diamond Staff

aka "The D-Unit"

Editors

Ann Renee Andree
Jessica Braunschweig
Andrea Dykshoorn

Page Layout

Matt Berkenpas
Rachel Bruning
Jamin Hubner
Aaron Huisman
Nate Nykamp

Copy Editors

Jessica Assink
Gloria Ayee
Manuela Ayee
Sara Burgin
Cassie Lokker

Layout Editors

Kara Kuipery
Mason Welsh

Staff Writers

Lynette Andree
John De Weerd
Elliot De Wit
Joe Eggebeen
Matthew Kunnari
Cheryl Korthuis
Amanda Henke
Jill Hiemstra
Jessi Rieken
Jesse Veenstra
Bree Wierenga
Jacqueline Wojcik
Kevin Zonnefeld

Ad Manager

Bridget Smith

Computer Consultant

Luke Haan

Cartoonist

Nate Gibson

Faculty Sponsor
Dr. L. Van Gilst

Sowers set sights on playoffs

Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer

Even though there is still snow on the ground and the weather is cold, the Dordt Sowers have been heating up the fields. The Dordt Sowers lacrosse team, already halfway through the spring season, is currently 4-3 and 2-0 in their sub-division of the Great Rivers Lacrosse Conference.

The Sowers started the spring season by playing Kansas State University (Division A) on Feb. 18 and ended up losing 10-4. The following week the Sowers faced off against Texas-Arlington and took care of business, winning 6-4. Later that day Dordt played #7 ranked Harding. The team was unable to sweep the weekend, losing 6-1.

On March 3, the Sowers faced off against Carleton and won easily, 7-3. However, they

lost a day later to #6 St. Thomas by a score of 10-2. On March 25, Dordt smacked around Nebraska-Omaha, winning 12-2, and followed it up with an upset win over #10 Creighton, 10-8.

Just over halfway through the season, the Sowers' chances for entering the conference playoffs look great. To make the playoffs, the Sowers must either win their sub-division or have one of the best six records in the conference. In order to clinch a spot in the playoffs, the Sowers need to win their next three games against Northwestern, Cornell and USD. In the history of Sowers lacrosse, the team has never lost to Northwestern or Cornell and has only lost to USD once.

The team members feel confident about their chances for the rest of the season. Senior Captain Paul Hoogendoorn says, "We have made the playoffs for three years straight, and we are looking fairly certain to make a fourth

straight appearance."

Strong defense and quality possessions have proven to be the key to the Sowers' success. Hoogendoorn says, "The major strength of the team is, and always has been, our defense. In addition to a strong defense, we have been possessing the ball more on offense to take some of the pressure off our defense. We also have a solid goalie that has made some big saves so far this season."

The Sowers hope to make a run into the playoffs and ultimately win the conference tournament and advance to the national tournament. Dordt has been ranked for much of the season in the top 25 and should return to the rankings later this week.

Dordt plays USD this Saturday, April 1, on the soccer field at 3:00 p.m., or on the football field at 6:00 p.m., depending on the weather. The following week, Dordt will play rival Northwestern.



Kristopher Walhof

The Sowers begin their games with a pregame cheer

The Slipper Didn't Fit for the Defender Men

Jon DeWeerd
Staff Writer

The Defender men's basketball team came to the end of their season with a loss to Lindenwood (Missouri) in the first round of the National tournament held at the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. It was a hard-fought contest with both teams playing to keep their season alive. At the half, Dordt found itself down by five points with a count of 30 to 25. The Defenders came out of the gates hard in the second half converting a three point play to cut the deficit to two points. The Lions of Lindenwood then appeared to be pulling away as they got up by a score of 44 to 33, but the scrappy Defenders found ways to keep themselves in the game. With a few minutes left in the game, Dordt fought back to get within two points at 54 to 52, but that's as close as it got. The Lions pulled it together at the end of the game to come out with the victory, 66 to 58. Dordt was led in scoring by Luke Ruter with 25 and led in rebounds by BJ Haan with 11. Brian Eekhoff came off the bench and put in some good minutes scoring 7 points and ripping down 4 rebounds. This trip to the National tournament marked the second

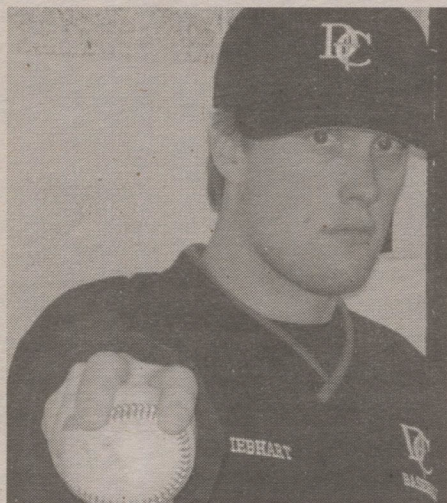
time in Dordt's history that the men's team has made it to Nationals.

A number of awards were received by Dordt College Defender players after the season had been completed. Luke Ruter was picked as a third team All-American in this, his senior season at Dordt College. He leaves with the second highest point total in Dordt history as well as having his name plastered on the leader boards of various other records. Luke Ruter also received honors in the GPAC Conference along with fellow senior BJ Haan. Haan ends his career as the 11th leading scorer of all-time at Dordt as well as having the second leading shooting percentage in Dordt College men's basketball history. Among others who were recognized this season were Scott Van Zanten who was named freshman of the year in the GPAC and Derek Keizer who received honorable mention for his play this season. Dordt loses three seniors, Ruter, Haan, and Jim Brinks, for next season, but hopefully things will fall into place and they can make there second straight trip to the College of the Ozarks next year.



Luke Ruter drives to the hoop for the shot

Get to know 'em



Full Name: Christopher Ryan Liebhart
Age: 19
Grade: Sophomore
Major: BUAD: Finance
Number: 9
Nickname: Liebs

Elliot De Wit
Staff Writer

Do you have a pregame meal that you eat before you pitch, if so, what?

Frosted Strawberry Pop Tarts, without toasting them.

Do you have any superstitions?

Never step on the chalk line going on or off the field and always sit in the same spot on the bench between innings, and having Alanna give me a pre-game motivational speech the day before I pitch.

Who has had the biggest influence on you with your baseball career and why?

Travis Hoekstra - he attended all of my baseball games in high school and inspired me to greater heights as a pitcher.

Who's your favorite pitcher of all time?

I could say some historic and influential

pitcher like Nolan Ryan, but honestly, it's Bartolo Colon. He is everything I want to be: he throws hard, he's got a CY Young Award, he plays for the Angels, and he does all of this while maintaining a terribly overweight physique.

Who would you rather have come in relief for you if you were up by two runs, John Rucker or Daryl Visser?

Daryl Visser, easil.. When I come off the field and I see Visser coming in, I think to myself, "They're not going to touch that 70 mph fastball." And then they never do.

If you could go up against any batter, who would you want to pitch against?

I would want to pitch to Derek Jeter so that I could have the pleasure of being able to peg him in his cocky little face.

After you finished pitching your no hitter, did you say to yourself, "that wasn't so

hard, I should just do that every time?" Surprisingly no, I realize (despite what some may think) that I am human and must settle for shutouts, with the occasional no hitter.

Do you like Big League Chew?

The better questions is, "Who doesn't like Big League Chew?" But I am a little upset because I have had a hard time finding it out here, but I stock up on it when I'm home.

Do you think I could get a hit off of you?

After assessing my own ability and watching you play slow pitch softball on a couple of occasions, I think I can safely say that you could easily get a hit off of me, good thing you don't play baseball.

What kind of job would you like to get after college?

I would to do something in the finance field, most likely a financial advisor.